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ICC TO AWARD GRANTS FOR RAIL SAFETY EDUCATION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 1, 2003

The Illinois Commerce Commission's Railroad Safety Section has issued a call for proposals for local railroad safety education and enforcement programs.

The ICC recently received a grant from the Federal Railroad Administration to work with local communities and railroads in Illinois to implement a number of railroad safety education or enforcement programs. The grants to be awarded may range from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

Each year in Illinois, 50 people are killed and another 50 injured in rail grade crossing collisions, or while trespassing on railroad property. Communities interested in partnering with the ICC on a rail safety education or enforcement program, may submit a one-page proposal describing railroad safety concerns in the area, activities on education and enforcement or both, the amount of the grant request and the degree of effort towards public awareness of the program.

Example programs may be examined on the ICC website at <http://www.icc.state.il.us>.

The deadline for proposals is December 1, 2003. Proposal should be submitted to Steve Laffey in the Railroad Safety Section of the Illinois Commerce Commission, 527 E. Capitol Avenue, Springfield, Illinois, 62701 or email him at slaffey@icc.state.il.us. Grant awards will be announced by January 5, 2004, and are expected to be implemented between January and September, 2004.